

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

The specification has been amended on page 2.

New claims 19 and 20 have been added.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-20 are now pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statements

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the inclusion of a signed and initialed copy of the PTO/SB/08 form submitted with an Information Disclosure Statement on April 5, 2006.

Applicant notes that additional Information Disclosure Statements and PTO/SB/08 forms were also filed on December 7, 2007; January 23, 2008; and February 27, 2008. Applicant respectfully requests that the Office provide signed and initialed copies of these PTO/SB/08 forms with the next Office correspondence.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 and 7-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0102935 to Auquier (hereafter “Auquier”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Auquier discloses an air distribution system 10 that includes ducts 12, a blower 14, a conditioning system 16, a central housing 18, and a control center 19. See paragraph 0022 of Auquier. The central housing 18 serves as a central connecting point for the ducts 12 and encases a rotary distribution chamber 42. See paragraph 0023 of Auquier. Auquier discloses that the rotary distribution chamber 42 includes an outer chamber 44, an inner chamber 46, a shaft 48, an actuator 50, and a stabilizer 52. See paragraph 0023 of Auquier. The outer chamber 44 and the inner chamber 46 are made of plastic, while the shaft 48 is made of metal. See paragraphs 0029 and 0033 of Auquier.

The Office states on page 2 of the Office Action that Auquier discloses a metallic basic body, noting paragraph 0033 of Auquier, which discloses that the shaft 48 is made of metal. However, Auquier does not disclose that the shaft 48 is “a metallic basic body which is at least partially lined with plastic, wherein a cavity of the basic body is a flow duct for a medium flowing through the basic body,” as recited in claim 1. Auquier does not disclose that the shaft 48 is lined with plastic or that the shaft 48 forms a cavity that is a flow duct for a medium that flows through the shaft 48.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). See generally M.P.E.P. § 2131. Auquier does not anticipate claim 1 because Auquier does not disclose all of the features of claim 1.

For at least the reasons discussed above, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Auquier in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,254,175 to Kim (hereafter “Kim”). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Kim fails to remedy the deficiencies of Auquier discussed above in regard to independent claim 1, from which claims 5 and 6. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New claims 19 and 20 have been added. Claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 1 and are allowable over the prior art for at least the reasons discussed above and for their respective additional recitations.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Atty. Dkt. No. 016906-0485

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

4/4/08

By

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